

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By this amendment, Applicant: cancels claims 1 and 7 without prejudice against future prosecution or disclaimer of the underlying subject matter; amends claims 2-6 and 8-10; and adds new claims 11-14.

Accordingly, claims 2-6 and 8-14 are pending in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of the priority documents.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

Applicant acknowledges that claims 4-6 and 8 have been indicated to define patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 3 and 8 are amended to be in independent form. Claim 10 is amended to depend from claim 8, and is now deemed to be patentable for the reasons that claim 8 has been indicated to define patentable subject matter.

New claims 11-14 are added to at least partially restore the original range of claims that existed before multiple dependencies were removed in the preliminary amendment. No new matter is added.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

SPECIFICATION

Applicants thank the Examiner for providing information about recommended section headings.

Section headings are not statutorily required for filing a non-provisional patent application under 35 USC § 111(a), but per 37 CFR § 1.51(d) are only guidelines that are suggested for applicant's use. (*See Miscellaneous Changes in Patent Practice, Response to comments 17 and 18* (Official Gazette, August 13, 1996) [Docket No: 950620162-6014-02] RIN 0651-AA75 ("*Section 1.77 is permissive rather than*

mandatory. ... [T]he Office will not require any application to comply with the format set forth in 1.77").

Therefore, Applicants respectfully decline to add the headings.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Bacon et al. GB 1,380,415 ("Bacon").

Applicant respectfully traverse those rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 2

Among other things, the steam iron of claim 2 includes heating means associated with the soleplate which comprise at least one flat resistive heating track.

Applicant respectfully submits that Bacon does not disclose this feature.

The Office Action cites element 16 in Bacon as supposedly corresponding to the flat resistive heating track.

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant respectfully submits that Fig. 1 of Bacon shows that element 16 is a round wire disposed within a sheath having a cross-section in the shape of a semicircle. Bacon also describes element 16 as being a "*sheathed wire electric heating element 16 of D-shaped section **pressed into a semi-circular groove***" – page 3, lines. See also page 3, line 125.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that element 16 is not flat, is not a track, and is not a flat resistive heating track.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is patentable over Bacon.

Claim 3

Among other things, the steam iron of claim 3 includes at least one embossed area which is provided in the soleplate and which forms a recess at a bottom side of the soleplate.

The Office Action cites element 23 in Bacon as supposedly corresponding to an embossed area of a soleplate.

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The dictionary defines an embossed area as a raised area. Applicant respectfully submits that Fig. 1 of Bacon shows that element 23 is actually a hole in the sole plate comprising facing plate 15 and support plate 14. Bacon also describes element 23 as being a hole (page 3, lines 15-16). FIG. 1 does not show any part of the sole plate which is raised or embossed and which forms a recess at a bottom side of the soleplate.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that element 23 is not an embossed area which forms a recess at a bottom side of the soleplate wherein the recess is designed for use as a steam distribution channel during operation of the steam iron.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is patentable over Bacon.

Claim 9

Claim 9 depends from claim 2 and is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 2.

NEW CLAIMS 11-14

New claims 11-14 depend respectively from claims 2-6.

Accordingly, new claims 11-14 are deemed patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 3-6.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 2-6 and 8-14 and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact

Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283.0720 to discuss these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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